

# ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2021 - MAY 2022



Councillor Arianna Leonard

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**ELECTORAL WARD:** Risca East

**PARTY:** Labour

**COUNCIL COMMITTEES:**

Council  
Social Services Scrutiny Committee  
Environment & Sustainability Scrutiny Committee

**SUBCOMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/PANELS:**

Risca Town Centre Management Group  
Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal - Crumlin Arm Working Group

**OUTSIDE BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS:**

Channel View Hall Committee  
Joint Community Council Events Committee  
Risca East Community Council

**SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY:**

Governor Ty Sign Primary School

## **ATTENDANCE**

To view my attendance record, please follow the link below:

<https://democracy.caerphilly.gov.uk/mgUserAttendanceSummary.aspx?LLL=0>

## **TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT**

Elected Members Safety (seminar)

## **WARD ACTIVITY**

Over the past year we have started to get back to some sort of normality whilst dealing and living with Covid19.

This has meant getting back to face to face meetings with residents and holding our bi-weekly surgeries, which are now held at The TLC Cafe in Ty Sign. During these surgeries we meet with many of our residents who need help with requests and personal issues.

I also make sure I am available via phone, face book and email, as many residents feel more comfortable interacting in this way, especially since the pandemic.

Recently, I have lobbied for funding, along with my fellow ward councillors for improved parking in our ward. I have organised meetings and site visits which have eventually helped secure a £400,000 investment into parking in our ward. Plans are already being drawn up to create parking in some of our worst hit areas and we are excited for work to begin on this.

As part of the Channel View Committee, we were able to help secure funding to renovate the old community building, we have started this process and the works have begun.

For the last few years (except during the pandemic) I have organised an annual Christmas Craft fair. This was started to help promote awareness of the Channel View Community Centre and to also show off our amazing local businesses and talents, which there are in abundance in Risca East.

Last years was bigger and better and gained collaboration from RCV UK, St David's Church and Risca East Community Council. We were able to run a day full of events, including a Santa's Grotto, the turning on of the Risca East lights (which were switched on by our local celebrities – Christian Malcolm & Darren Campbell), as well as crafts & refreshments provided by St Davids Church. I believe this was a memorable day out for all members of our community, young & old and really brought the community together.

As local councillors we have worked hard to secure funding for the Ty Sign Field Play Park, which has recently been refurbished and is looking fantastic and being used by many. We also listened to our residents when there were proposals to develop on the Spar field land. We campaigned with residents to keep the field and helped with a petition to keep and protect it, we were successful in helping keep this for the younger generations.

I have taken part in a number of armistice events and concerts over the last year. I also help with to plan and create the visual imagery for the Risca Armistice Concert, the visuals remember the lives of those who have been lost over the years.

I also try to support our Food Bank and local volunteer groups as much as possible, with visits and meeting to help where I can. In this cost-of-living crisis I believe this is more important than ever.

Last year I organised and attended bi-weekly litter picks with my fellow ward Councillor Philippa Leonard and local residents. These were very successful and helped clean up our local environment massively. We are hoping to continue these over the Summer Holidays this year.

I have also created an 'Adopt a Lane Scheme' in Risca East, where members of the ward who have volunteered can be responsible for litter picking their closest lane. This has had a positive start and I am looking forward to seeing where this leads.

Lastly, within my meetings/discussions with residents, local issues that are discussed and acted on regularly are overgrown hedges and weed control, fly tipping, grass cutting, neighbourhood disputes, parking and parking enforcement issues, bin related problems, dog waste, council house renovation, residential and day care related issues, and grass cutting.